



A BALANCED VIEW

A NEW LOOK ... AND A LOOK BACK.

ISASC was founded in September of 1976, and as of today, hardly resembles the beginnings of our Society some 24 years ago. The first issue of EQM was published in the spring of 1978 under the editorship of Michael Crawforth, ably assisted by spouse and partner Diana. And I wrote the first of what was to be 84 issues of a quarterly communiqué in December, 1978, originally designated the Chairman's Newsletter, and in January 1989, renamed the President's Newsletter.

ISASC grew and flourished in those years, and in 1999, after 24 years in office, your president resigned but with a promise to continue serving our Society as long as he was able. His term of office officially came to a close this past December 31, and in return for services rendered, he proposed that he be given the title of "Emperor." The question was put to an officers' vote, the result of which was one "yea" (guess who?), and six "nays" (a somewhat short-sighted but predictable response). Alternatively, the officers did vote that your now former President become "President Emeritus" (a title reluctantly accepted in view of my continuing preference for "Emperor").

Most importantly and for the common good, a new presidential candidate was nominated in the person of Tom Dooley and unanimously voted into office by the entire membership for a three-year term, starting this first millennium year. Tom and his current corps of officers promise to keep ISASC on the same progressive path it has trod during the last two-plus decades, and enclosed with this Newsletter (newly-titled but still being written by me for the short-term) is the first official missive from Tom to our membership. As you'll glean from it, all bodes well for our Society's future under Tom's leadership.

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COME TO SEATTLE – AND THEN ON TO B.C.

The Pacific Northwest is where we'll be this coming May 4 to 7, and what a special time we're planning for you in Seattle, one of the most alluring travel destinations anywhere. We'll be staying at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bellevue, a 10-minutes-from-Seattle suburb overlooking Lake Washington. Our hotel is as nice as you could wish for, and our program will combine tried-and-true events – Collectors' Get-Together; "Show and Tell;" Silent Auction; special speakers (including our EQM Editor, Diana Crawford); and a gala Saturday night reception and banquet, along with a pleasure trove of special activities - - a cruise to Blake Island and Tillicum Village, famed Indian settlement, featuring a baked salmon dinner and stage show; a choice of tours of downtown Seattle and the Space Needle, or Snoqualmie Falls (breathtaking), Salish Lodge, and Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery. And for everyone, Friday afternoon at Pike Place Market.

And when our Seattle time comes to a close on Sunday, we've scheduled a post-convention four-day trip to a close-by and equally alluring part of the world – Victoria and Vancouver in British Columbia, Canada. Here's what you can expect: Those bound for Canada will stay at the DoubleTree in Bellevue Sunday night, and on Monday morning travel by bus and ferry to Victoria (members who drove to Seattle can leave their cars at the Doubletree, complimentary). In Victoria, we'll stay at the Chateau Victoria and be on our own during the day. Comes evening, we'll dine together at the rooftop dining room of our hotel.

Tuesday we'll take a tour of the city of Victoria and the famed Butchart Gardens, after which we'll leave late afternoon by ferry for Vancouver (a world class city). Arriving in Vancouver, we'll check into the Hotel Renaissance, spend the evening on our own and on Wednesday tour the city, ending the day with dinner at Brothers Restaurant in colorful Gastown.

Thursday morning it's back to Seattle by bus, stopping at the DoubleTree to drop off those who left their cars there, and then, via the bus, on to Sea-Tac Airport for those taking a plane home.

Sounds exciting, yes? The foregoing gives you an overview of what's planned, and the trip in complete detail will be described in our upcoming convention mailing which should reach you in mid-January or thereabouts. Just remember, we need your reservation soon, especially for the trip to Canada, so check your mailbox for the convention materials that include registration fees, reservation form, tentative program, and whatever else it takes to give you an idea of what you definitely don't want to miss. We promise you an experience that may not come your way again in this or any other millennium.

THANKS ARE IN ORDER.

Every year we feel good about thanking our hard-working officers who continue to put in hours of attention to ISASC's needs. By name, you probably know them as scale collectors, but that doesn't say anything about all else they do to maintain the well being of our Society. So in that light, here they are, namely: Jan Macho, one of ISASC's perennial directors, and in 2000, our newly-appointed Executive Secretary; Jerry Katz, Vice President and the one who single-handedly handles our Research & Reply service to the public (a big job); Ruth Willard, Associate Editor of EQM and productively involved in so much more; Jerry Wilson, Vice President and head of our library fulfillment program (another big job); Steve Beare, Vice President charged with handling member recruitment and new member fulfillment; Norm Cima, Secretary, who, as we speak, is busy guiding our Society into the world of the Internet; and Eddy Konowitz, our always diligent Treasurer, who does such a fine job of looking after our funds and our funding. Our gratitude goes out to one and all.

MORE THANKS (AND WITH GOOD REASON).

Going on behind the scenes for more than a year has been a total revamp of ISASC's Bylaws, and now that the job is completed, we want to thank the Bylaws Committee for its unstinting time and effort to make it happen, namely: Jerry Wilson, Chairman; Norman Cima, and Ruth Willard. Their contribution to the substantive essentials of the Bylaws will be very important to ISASC as we enter a new era that new President Tom Dooley personifies. AND – regarding the new Bylaws, if you want your own personal copy, simply write Tom Dooley asking for it and you'll receive it shortly.

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SPECIAL THANKS.... AND SOME BIG NEWS!

Now, at a most appropriate time, we want to thank Diana Crawforth, our EQM Editor, for all her good work at a job she's so especially skilled at. To acknowledge her talents, we've signed an open-end agreement with her calling for a new (increased) editor's fee and carefully defined job specifications. In effect, we've established a direct and exclusive relationship between Diana and ourselves (ISASC), at the same time clarifying our relationship with ISASC Europe having to do with our continuing to provide them with EQM at agreed upon terms.

This being all to the good, the BIG NEWS is that Diana was a candidate this past Fall for the position of Chairman of ISASC Europe, and when the vote-counting was done, lo and behold, she'd won! Now, besides being EQM Editor, she's holding down the top job in our sister Society across the sea. All we can say is: Pace yourself, Diana. It's not your mind we're concerned about; it's your need for a strong back. And all the best!

AND ONE MORE TIME -- THANKS!

This time, to those members who responded so generously to our Benefactor Program. As this Newsletter is being written, we've received about 80% of our annual \$10,000 goal, and we're expecting the balance from those who haven't yet responded but who can be counted on every year. We'll thank all of you again in April when our efforts come to a close, but our thanks now are anything but premature. So there!

FOR THOSE WHO COUNT....

You'll be impressed to learn that resulting from our vote this past Fall for the election/re-election of ISASC's seven officers/directors, we received 124 ballots, of which three were invalid and the balance – 121- were unanimous in electing the proposed slate. Now that's democracy and solidarity working together in our best interests.

THE LURE OF SCALES.

It was proved beyond a doubt this past early Autumn, when yours truly hosted a number of members intent on buying some scales from the Stein collection. That they did, but during that same time, yours truly received a call from member Dick Wagers of Lodi, California, the gist of which was, "Bob, we're not interested in buying scales; we just want to see your collection." We said "Come along," and wouldn't you know it, Dick and wife Jackie got on a plane, flew to Chicago from San Francisco, spent the better part of two days with us (and our collection), and flew back home to California. Needless to say, Bob and Margie were delighted to entertain Dick and Jackie, and invited them to come back anytime. A few days later, member Deuell Wall called from several states away, told us he and wife, Gail, were on a mobile home vacation trip, and could he stop by and see our scales. Again, "Of course," and later that week Deuell spent a non-buying, scale-viewing afternoon with us at the Stein Museum. Now that's what ISASC's all about!

UPDATE ON RUTH WILLARD'S WHEREABOUTS.

What we mean is Ruth's e-mail whereabouts, taking into account that at any given time she's in touch via the Internet with a dozen or more members. Ruth has asked us to advise our membership that her new e-mail address is rhwillard@aol.com Please change your records accordingly.

A POET IN OUR MIDST.

That's right. Member Albert Stirm of Polson, Montana, sends us a poem every time he has occasion to write us, and here are two, one of which accompanied his election ballot, and the other his Benefactor contribution:

(1)

I WANT TO TELL THE WORLD
WHENEVER I AM GLAD,
FOR HAPPINESS UNSHARED
BECOMES A LITTLE SAD

(2)

ANTIQUÉ FURNITURE
AT HOME,
WEALTH AS WELL AS
TASTE DENOTES –

WOULD THAT I COULD
START A FAD,
FOR WEARING ANTIQUE
OVERCOATS

Albert, we hereby appoint you ISASC's poet laureate. Keep up the good words.

(over)

REMINDER, PLEASE; REMINDER, PLEASE; REMINDER, PLEASE...

In case you're in doubt but somehow feel guilty, that's the refrain of a broken record played by our treasurer, Eddy K. What he's asking is – please pay your dues now so he can enjoy the year 2000. (Forget the millennium, he says. Just pay on-time one year at a time.)

And while you're at it, don't forget to send in your Directory Update form, BUT only if there's a change required in your listing (address, phone, e-mail, # of scales in your collection, etc.).

OUR CONDOLENCES.

Friends of long-standing member Gloria Lipfert will be grieved to hear that Gloria lost her husband and life-long friend, Ralph, this past November 18. Ralph was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, class of 1945, and subsequently spent 30 years in the Navy. In later life, he traveled extensively with Gloria and shared her passion for scale-collecting. He was a fine man and left a family of which he and Gloria were justly proud. Ralph was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. We'll all miss him, and share his family's deep sense of loss at his passing.

Also, this past November 30 we lost member J.B. (Jake) Phillips of Stone Mountain, Georgia. A lingering illness took Jake's life, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his widow, Yvonne.

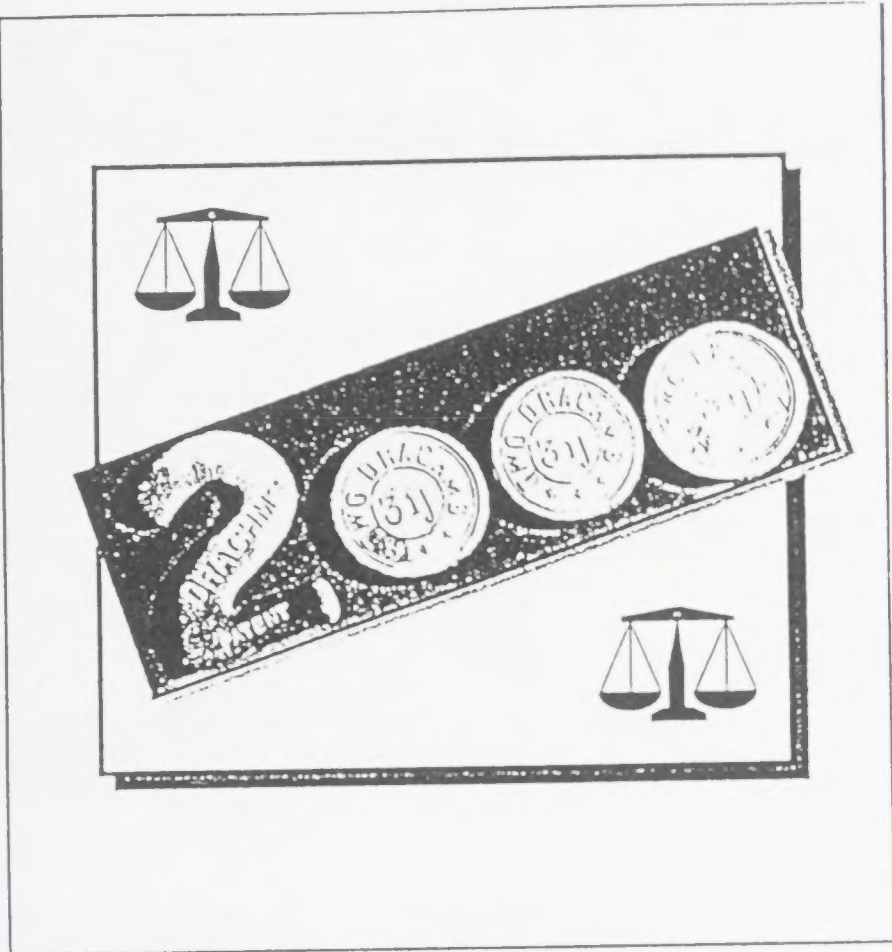
"MAKE-GOOD" PROMISE.

"Make-good" is a printer's term which we don't like because it means something went wrong the first time around. It happens every so often with EQM, and we invariably are at a loss to know how it happened. That's true of the two latest mishaps with two separate issues, and all we can do is ask you to check your copies, and if you discover it's happened to you, let us know and we'll quickly send you a make-good copy. Here are the particulars as reported by two different members – Issue No. 3, 1999: Pages missing – 2369/2370 and 2387/2388; Pages duplicated— 2371/2372; 2385/2386; Issue No. 4, 1999 :Pages completely blank – 2400 and 2413.

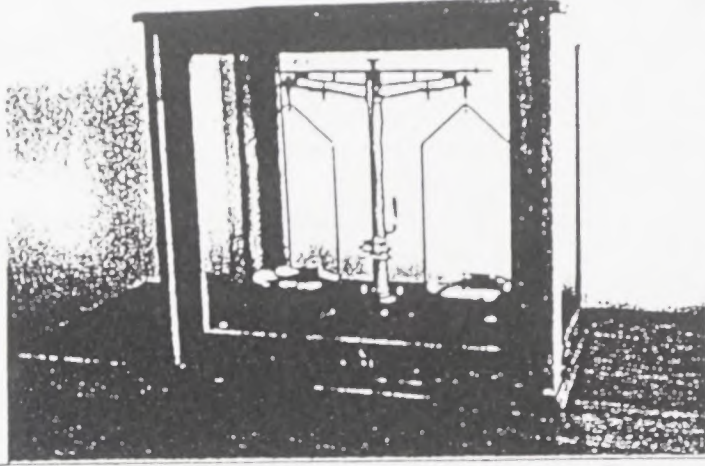
Also, there's a mistake on the cover of Issue No. 4 (the printer's error, by his own admission) which no one has reported to us and, in practical terms, cannot be remedied. If you find it (easy, with the guidance we've given you), let us know and we'll mention your name in our next Newsletter. How's that for an incentive?

A NOVEL GREETING FROM OVERSEAS.

Bob Holdaway, one of our special collector friends in England, sent us a most clever calendar for 2000, with the months separately cut out, each one picturing, in full color, scales, weights and measures. Lack of space precludes our showing you all 12 months, but here's the cover (designating the year with weights) and three sample months. It's quite attractive, and Margie Stein has already decided to back each of them with magnetic stripping and keep the current month prominently displayed on her fridge.

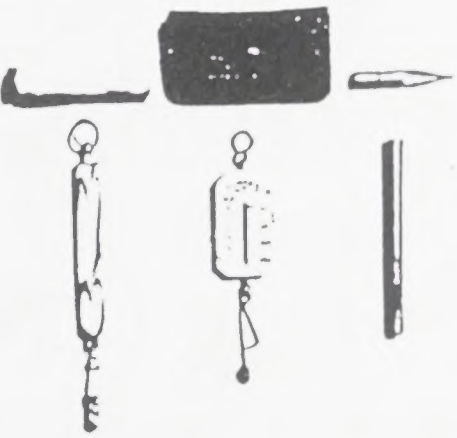


FEBRUARY



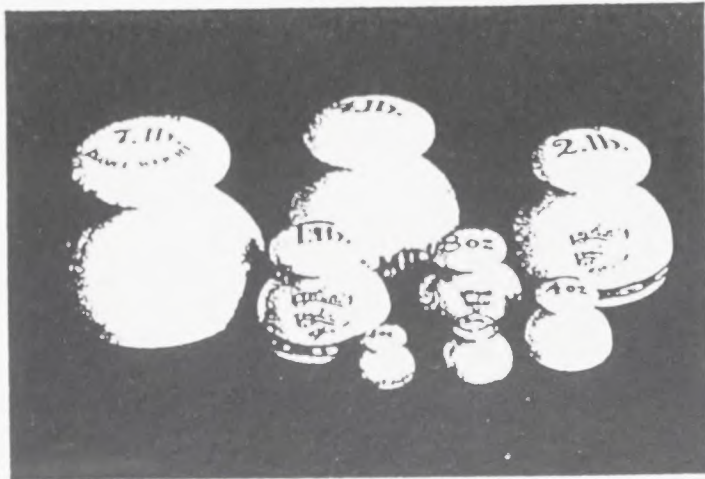
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

APRIL



M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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NOVEMBER



M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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MIGHT WE ALL GO METRIC THIS MILLENNIUM?

We came across a most interesting article posing that very question, so we've reproduced it in this Newsletter. It just may turn out to be the latest development in our special world of weights and measures (and, of course, scales).

■ *Advocates say the loss of the Mars Climate Orbiter is proof that the United States should get in step with the rest of the world.*

Metric debate lingers

BY MATTHEW FORDAHL

LOS ANGELES—How does the United States measure up to the rest of the world in accepting the metric system? Look no further than the doomed Mars Climate Orbiter, say proponents of meters, grams and liters.

The \$125 million spacecraft was lost because NASA navigators mistakenly thought a contractor used metric measurements. The contractor had used English units, and the probe burned up in the Martian atmosphere Sept. 23.

"A stupid error like that could have been avoided if we had been on the metric system," said Valerie Antoine, executive director

of the U.S. Metric Association. "This is a very good reason Congress had better get busy and mandate we go metric."

In 1975, Congress approved a policy to "coordinate and plan . . . the voluntary conversion to the metric system." But Americans still pump their gas in gallons and follow signs with distances marked in miles.

NASA went metric in 1996, and there have been other bumpy conversions. In 1983, a Canadian jetliner nearly ran out of fuel after someone pumped 22,300 pounds of fuel into its tanks rather than 22,300 kilograms.

Seaver Leslie, chairman of the Americans for Customary Weight and Measure, says conversion to the metric system is a waste of money. People can guess the length of a foot.

But a meter? It's 3.28083989501312 feet.

"NASA's interested in researching space and discovering the great unknown and getting there as safely as possible," he said. "We don't need errors created by people fumbling around with two measurement systems."

About 95 percent of the world uses the metric system. Some U.S. businesses that sell their goods abroad relabel their products for overseas sales. Others, such as automakers, have switched to metric measurements.

There are other signs that the United States is inching toward acceptance of the metric system. Supermarkets stock soda in 2-liter bottles, cameras take 35mm film, and police regularly seize "kilos" of drugs.

Associated Press.

AND NOW IT'S TIME TO LEAVE YOU...

and get back to convention planning. You'll find this Newsletter accompanied by Supplement #3 to our Membership Directory, along with our current library list. Use them as they're intended, and start making plans for Seattle-Bellevue and British Columbia. We'll look forward to seeing you soon.

Fraternally,

